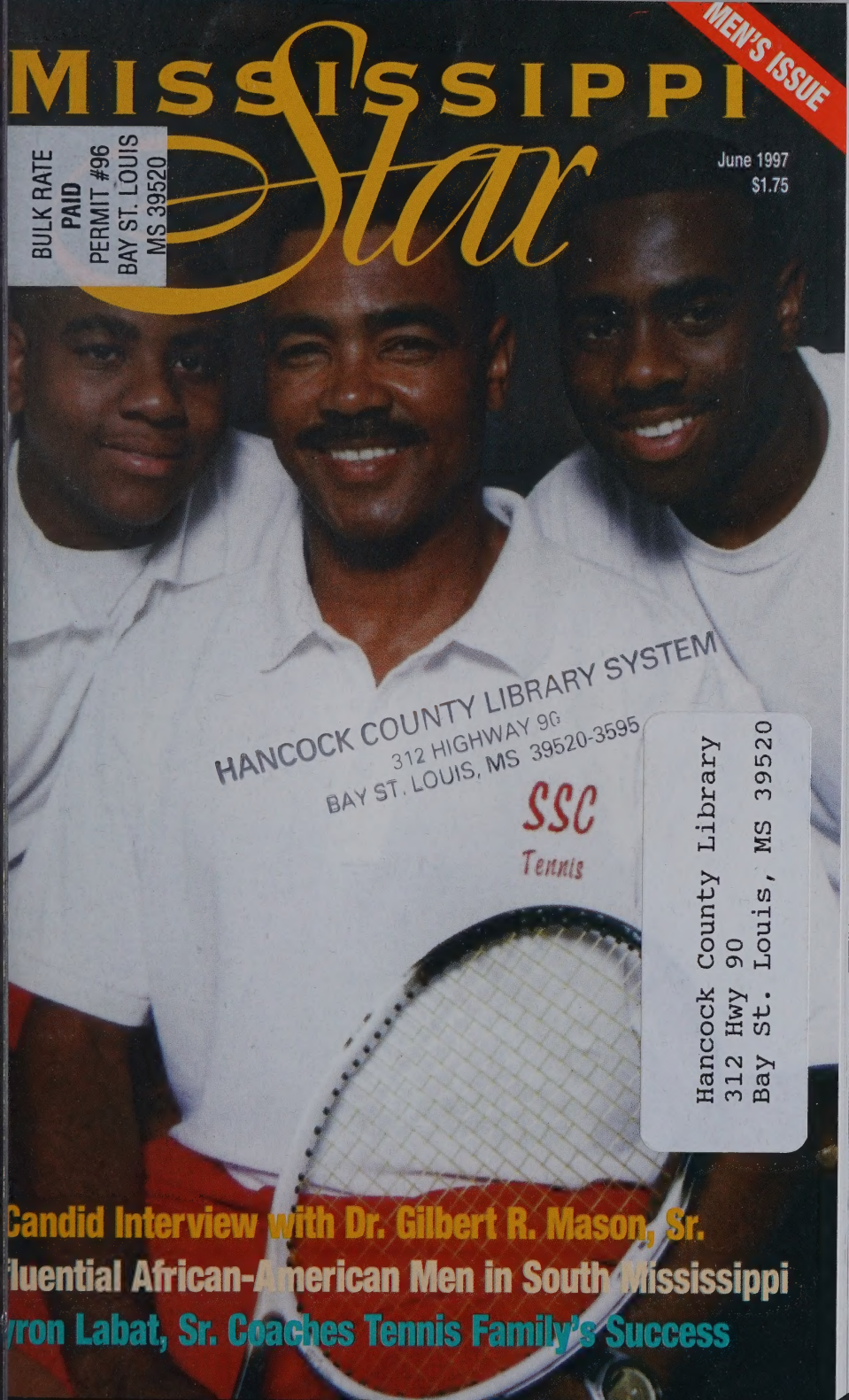
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Photograph by Jimmy Loiacano

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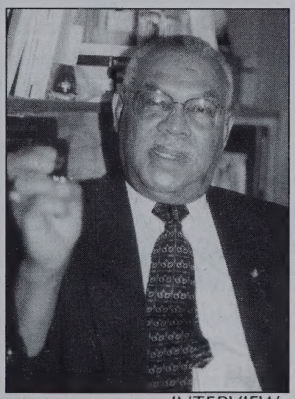

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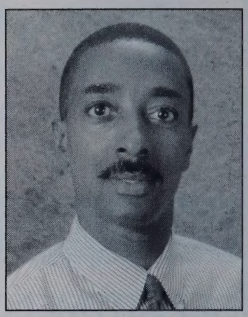

Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Tiger Woods, what an impressive young man. Certainly, he is an outstanding golfer, but my feeling is that the quality of the character of the person is at least as good as his golf talent. He was as gracious receiving that green sports jacket and check for winning The Masters as he was graceful at handling the perceived racist comments of another golfer.

Tiger was prepared. Not only was he prepared to handle the challenges of the bunkers and water holes of the premier golf course in the country, he was prepared to deal with the social potholes of an elitist culture that had previously excluded men just because they looked a little like Tiger.

When the media tried to press him to give a comment on the alleged racist remarks, Tiger told them that he had heard about the remarks but at that moment he had not spoken with the person who had made them. And after he finally talked with the person who made the remarks, he told the public the issue was "over." He dealt with the issue and began pursuing his next challenge, apparently carrying none of the potentially burdensome emotional baggage of that particular incident.

How does a twenty-one year old arrive at that level of maturity at such a young age? If you saw the conclusion of The Masters back in March, and you saw Tiger embrace his father, then you know the answer. His mature handling of the different situations was no accident. His father had prepared him for the game of life as well as the game of golf.

The story of the two young men featured in the cover story is similar to Tiger and his father's story. Myron Labat Sr. prepared Myron Labat Jr. for life, using sport - tennis in this case - to develop character, leadership and a sense of presence in his son. Myron Jr. served as captain of the Jackson State University tennis team which won consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference championships, the second this spring shortly before his graduation.

I believe that there would be more happy families if there were more fathers who realized the importance of helping their children find their places in life. And the result would be more embraces like the one involving the youngest man to ever win The Masters and his father after the son took top honors at the most prestigious golf tournament in the United States.

To the men featured in the pages of this issue as well as to the many, many men who work hard everyday and lead your families, congratulations for making a difference and thanks for your examples of manhood. Whether you accept the challenge of being a role model or not, children are observing and learning from you. Be a good teacher! MS

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LETTERS

Dear Mr. Singleton,

First of all, I would like to compliment you on a very uplifting and positive representation of the communities in your magazine. I hope you have started a new trend, "good news is worth reading". In our recent trip to Bay St. Louis, my wife and I had the pleasure of visiting with Ms. Celestine Labat. I can't express what we felt as she described with pride the contributions of her family to the city of Bay St. Louis. I read the newspaper articles and the Labat Family files in the Hancock County Historical Society center, but to hear her tell the story is like finally finding your reading glasses. The tour of her home, the sparkle in her eyes and occasional chuckles as she recalled humorous events was an experience I will never forget. I originally went to see her about information on a family I was researching for an upcoming reunion. To my surprise, she had pictures and information on deceased relatives I have never known. Listening to her as she talked about them, I felt connected or that I had known them. Ms. Labat is one of the most interesting and gracious persons in Bay St. Louis. I'm sure the reason she has been around so long is her generous attitude in sharing her obvious intelligence and kindness with others. She demonstrates that "doing for others is the way to true happiness". If there is anyone in the community that does not know Ms. Labat or someone who needs a role model, I hope you will celebrate and share this lovely person with your readers.

Sincerely,
Oscar J. Barabino, Jr.
Elk Grove, California

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LETTERS

Connie Payne Lampley

I would first like to thank God for giving me the strength and courage needed to run this race. It has truly been a great learning experience for me and it's given me the opportunity to meet many people that reside in the community. Secondly, I would like to thank each and everyone who supported me so faithfully throughout this long and hard, but very exciting campaign; without you I would not have been victorious. I am very grateful to you. Last, but certainly not least, I must thank my family who worked so diligently throughout this campaign. You all were my backbone. Without you it would have been impossible for me to do all the work necessary to run the campaign I did. Thanks so very much. A special thanks to my husband Gregory and daughter Janell for being so patient, my mother Gloria Payne for encouraging me, and my sister Myra Haynes for going the extra mile with me. You all are "The Greatest!"

To my constituents I say, "You have elected me to represent you for the next four years and I will do my best to make a difference for the citizens of Ward 3 and the city of Bay St. Louis. There are so many things needed in our community and with your input and help these goals can be achieved. We must work together as a whole to reshape the community in which we live, because it is our past, present and future. Thanks so much for making me your next Council Representative.

Sincerely,

Connie Payne Lampley

Dear Mr. Singleton,

Great Accomplishment!

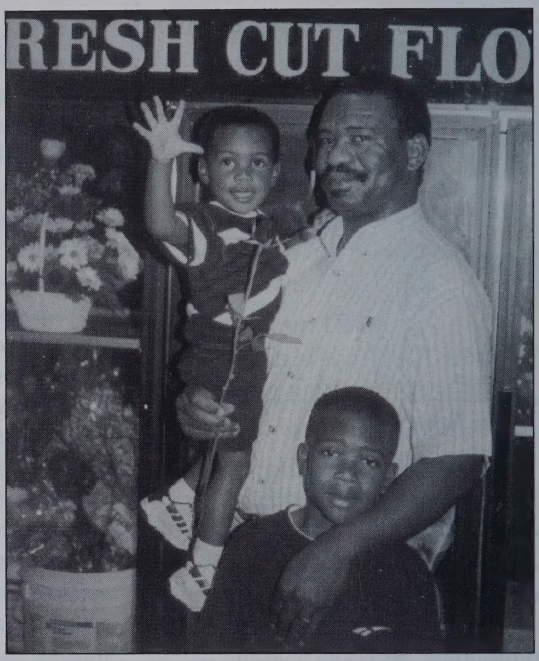
I just had a wonderful opportunity to read your magazine. Each article was interesting and informative. I wasn't aware of the local talent, personalities and businesses in the surrounding areas. Your magazine displays professionalism in art work and journalism. It's great to have another voice in the community.

Sheila R. Sullivan
Gulfport, MS

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.



CLIFTON WALKER, SR. WITH SONS, TOMMY, 1 AND CLIFTON JR., 6

Clifton and Lisa Walker started Walker's Florist in December of 1993. Clifton worked for Adam's Florist and after two months there, "I asked the Lord if he would allow me to own my own business in five years. After five years, "I just walked out on fate."

Starting out as a driver at Adams, Clifton says that position didn't allow him to learn very much about the business but he says that he loved the atmosphere. "I've always been a person who enjoyed meeting and greeting people. When I would go out on delivery, the person who received the flowers would ask what flower shop I was with. I realized then that I could be telling them that I was with Walker's Florist in five years.

"We are a Christian business," Clifton continues. "When a family has lost a loved one it's a burden for them. I try to help the family by assuring them that they won't have to worry about the quality and condition of their flowers."

"There's no better florist in town," says Mr. Charlie Odom one of Walker's customers. "His casket sprays are some of the most beautiful you will ever see. Families are always pleased with Walker's work."

"My greatest reward in this business is being able to help make someone else happy," Clifton explained.

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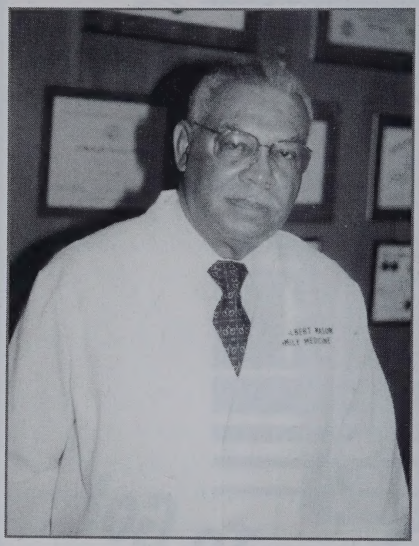
INTERVIEW

Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, Sr.



Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, Sr. has lived in Biloxi for the past forty-two years. He has been involved in the civil rights movement in Mississippi since moving back to the state in 1955. He is a graduate of Lanier High School in Jackson, Tennessee State University in Knoxville, and Howard University Medical School in Washington, D.C., graduating with honors at each level. In 1993 he concluded a thirty-four-year, eight-month term as president of the Biloxi Branch of the NAACP which began with him as founding president. Upon retiring from his role as president of the NAACP Biloxi Branch, he was elected President Emeritus.

Dr. Mason was the first African-American physician to be inducted into the American Academy of Family Physicians (1970). He was also one of the first two African-American physicians to pass boards to become a diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice.

Recently, I had the pleasure to talk with Dr. Mason about his accomplishments, the NAACP today, the civil rights movement, practicing medicine, the impact of his late friend Aaron Henry on the civil rights movement and several other issues. I can tell you this: He is an honorable man whose personal constitution includes the qualities of a gentleman, scholar and warrior.

MS: What brought you to Biloxi?

Dr. Mason: The need for physicians. I sought Dr. Felix Dunn's advice when I was seeking a place to locate. I wrote him, and he told me about Biloxi. I had come through Biloxi in 1948 on a train; and my brother had worked at Kaiser during the war, and he would talk about Pascagoula and Biloxi, telling me about the natural beauty of the place, the natural shoreline and the antebellum artifacts. I almost went to Tupelo, because it was shown to be the fastest growing city in the state. But I liked what I saw in 1948.

MS: Have you ever second-guessed your decision to make Biloxi your home?.

Dr. Mason: No, I have never second-guessed my decision to move here, but even in my profession there are areas of discrimination and segregation. As a matter of fact I was called in before the executive committee in 1960 after the wade in (protest by Blacks in early sixties to gain equal access to coast beaches) because I had exercised my rights as a citizen and there was talk of putting me off staff. I had to answer to the executive committee. There was a good friend of mine, Dr. Frank Gruich who was an OB/GYN and he told the executive committee that this man was merely exercising his rights, as I had also told them. And they backed off of that.

MS: How did the Biloxi Branch of the NAACP get started?

Dr. Mason: It was the beach Wade In that really led to the formation of the Biloxi Branch of the NAACP. We were working through a group called the Harrison County Citizens Committee. We elected Dr. Dunn president; and he was also president of the Gulfport branch. It just so happened that Wilma McDaniel, James Crawford and I were the only three members from Biloxi that we knew of who belonged to the Gulfport branch. I thank Dr. Dunn for many things, including introducing me to Medgar Evers the first year I was here. His advice and counsel during the wade ins was invaluable. So I am indebted to him for much advice.

MS: Where did the term Wade In originate?

Dr. Mason: We gave that title to the world. There had been sit ins earlier. And before the wade in in 1960, a small group of us had gone to the beach in1959 and had been threatened that if we didn't leave the beach they would remove us. That happened before the sit ins in Greensboro. That was one of the first protest acts we knew of. Of course there was Oklahoma City in 1954. The youth branch of the NAACP had done sit ins, but this was one of the first in the Deep South.

MS: Where is the Civil Rights Movement at this time?

Dr. Mason: The civil rights movement with the exception of the NAACP is fragmented, unfocused, and in many areas, misdirected. And I say that for this reason: the NAACP has been steadfast since it was first founded in 1909. The tactics have changed over the years. NAACP first was strictly legal. There was silent protest led by W.E.B. Dubois during the twenties. Then in the forties, fifties and sixties, the NAACP became active in militancy from the standpoint of, if you can think of a civilized, organized militant movement that was not racist in its statements or its philosophies but emphasizing constitutional issues. Initially the first victories were of course won in the courts. Though we had four wade ins here in Biloxi, the final analysis came through the U.S. Government's intervention in 1960 and the NAACP later on in the1963 wade in to go through the courts. Virtually every victory in Mississippi and the south has been a legal victory. Even the Montgomery Movement had to call upon the NAACP to get a ruling so that the buses would be desegregated.

Today we have several smaller groups that don't have the name recognition of the NAACP who have their own agendas, who espouse first class citizenship, fatherhood, manhood, womanhood and elevation of our children. We all embrace that. But the thrust is still cared for by the NAACP. There are some of us who want to push individuals in organizations but they don't have the organized focused programs of the NAACP.

NAACP has become more democratic. John Doe can become elected to the national board; NAACP grass roots has more voice than ever before. Programatically, NAACP is still on the cutting edge.

MS: What do you say to those who say that the NAACP is outdated?

Dr. Mason: Yes, I have heard that but then I have not closed my ears to it. But I can tell you that it is a ball-faced, calculated, nonthinking prevarication; I won't call it a lie, but it amounts to that. NAACP, so far as scholarships are concerned probably gives more college scholarships to deserving high school students than any other organization.

The NAACP is still in the courts and has come to the rescue of black folks who have been discriminated against in the armed services; and in women's rights in the petitioning to Congress for the senate confirmation of African-American women. The NAACP has been on the forefront.

Youth programs: there is no organization

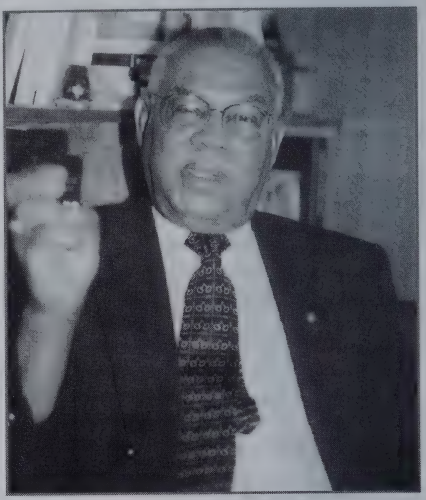
in the United States which has an organization such as the ACT-SO Program, Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics, which is a program that has about twenty-two categories where the youth perform and compete locally, on the state level, on the regional level and then on the national level. In other words, we feel that the emphasis on intelligencia and educational activity should be just as intense as for those who want to be pros in the NBA, National Football League or baseball. So, when the NAACP came up with this idea, (the response was) why not? Students compete in the areas of science, chemistry, physics, electronics, computers, dancing, classical dance, jazz, modern music, classical music and speech; there about twenty-two categories which grew from fifteen originally.

MS: What did you think of the way the NAACP was represented in the movie A Time To Kill?

Dr. Mason: The NAACP was not fairly represented. The NAACP was portrayed as being a lightweight organization. It was unfairly represented. And I say unfairly represented because the NAACP didn't come into any state or any city and pretend to put up the money to represent the would be plaintiff and not do anything about it. The NAACP was like E.F. Hutton; when NAACP talked, people listened.

The bombing in the chamber was so much like Byron de la Beckwith's life that we felt that it was a takeoff on the life of Medgar (Evers). There is an excellent essay by Eudora Welty. It's beautifully written; it shows soul. It was written within the first week after Medgar's death. She doesn't call him by name, but she downs and describes very well the despicable act of shooting a man down in his back.

Honor, family, life are values that we all should protect; and I think the father in A Time To Kill was defending life, honor, respect and his daughter.



MS: Dr. Mason, what was your impact as a civil rights leader?

Dr. Mason: First of all, you have to give credit to God who led me in this fight for freedom, a fight that evolved or to which I was thrown because of the time, the place, the circumstance. I have always been a leader. In the boy scouts I was one of the first Black Eagle Scouts in Jackson, Mississippi, second in the state. I was the president of all my classes at Tennessee State, representative of the student council at Howard University.

A physician should be more than a practioner of the healing arts. He should be a teacher. He should be a leader. He should be involved in his church, in his community and in his school.

It was no doubt that I would reach out to embrace and secure those rights; I believed in the constitution.

I think I had the respect of the public. I was active in my church work. So when we later organized the Biloxi Civic League, of which I became the president in 1960. I was assistant Scoutmaster and then Scoutmaster for fifteen years.

MS: What is the impact of Kweisi Mfume?

Dr. Mason: He is no doubt a great

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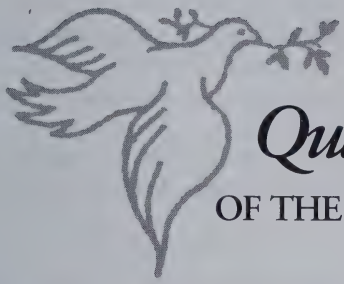

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organizer and fund-raiser. He is a tremendous leader. His greatest impact will be seen in the future.

MS: What impact did Aaron Henry have on the civil rights movement?

Dr. Mason: Aaron Henry's impact? I'll tell you this: We had a freedom Fund Banquet, and Felix (Dr. Felix Dunn) introduced Aaron this way, "Anybody who don't know Aaron Henry ought to not be here." That pretty much sums up what he meant to the struggle.

With Aaron, we brought Headstart to Mississippi. Even to this day, Mississippi gets more set aside for Headstart than any other state in the union. So when you say Aaron Henry's influence, it cannot be counted. It cannot be measured geometrically or any other astronomical figure that increases its quantity by whatever doubling or tripling or what have you to infinity. If suffering is a measure of one's contribution to the civil rights movement then his measure is full, and has been for many years. Aaron has been tortured and prosecuted, been persecuted, and many other negative things through the Citizens Council, the Sovereignty Commission, the Ku Klux Klan and every other hate group that tried to have an impact on Black folks attacked Aaron Henry because he represented Black folks. Their venom was leased upon him as it would have been upon us if that collective aspect could be achieved. Aaron brought to the office of presidency a dignity often fraught with frustration that allowed other branches to be established. He was available at all times, an early riser. He would just as soon call you at four in the morning and start discussing something about what we're going to do next week as to call you at ten o'clock in the evening. His time was between 4:00 and 6:00 a.m. Many mornings he would awaken me to discuss an issue or give me a directive or ask me for information. He had unbounding energy, and he served on the national board (NAACP) at the time of his death as the senior member. I don't think he had the longest tenure on the board but he had one of the longest.

I'm eternally grateful for Aaron Henry.

MS: Did you have much interaction with Medgar Evers?

Dr. Mason: I had as much interaction with Medgar during his short life as I had with Aaron during his life. He was shot three days after he left my house in a hurry on a Sunday morning when we were planning a beach wade in. He would have been here, not to participate, but to provide bonds and what have you for the '63 wade in. So, Medgar and I were very close friends. In the years that he lived we interacted many times - he and his wife and my wife, Myrlie and Natalie. So, yes Medgar was a good friend of mine.

MS: Considering the act that took Medgar's life and the racial atmosphere at that time, how much did you feel the threat of losing your life?

Dr. Mason: Yes, I received many threats. It didn't really bother me. It bothered me, but strangely, I never had the fear of being killed. I had an awareness; for example, they firebombed my old office, and they burned crosses on my yard when I moved on Fayard Street. And the wall was shot into; and my car was burned on the beach. But I never had the fear - my friends did - and so the black men of Biloxi formed a cadre of protection like the secret service guards the president of the United States. Day and night. When I would make rounds, they would make rounds with me. When I would make house calls, I'd call a number and they'd meet me for house calls, during all times of the night. I'd get up for a delivery, they would meet me there. And that went on from 1960 through 1964. Everyday. A lot of people didn't know, but if you were a strange car in my neighborhood between those years, you were either stopped or you ran the risk of being held up; and if you acted

peculiar, you would be shot. Both Dr. Dunn and I told Medgar that he needed protection - he refused it! I would never refuse my friends generosity. And we had a list of twelve people who were going to be killed: Felix (Dr. Dunn) was on it; I was on it; Medgar was on it; R.L.T. Smith, Sr. of Jackson; there were about twelve of us. We had a reliable information source.

I don't know what other communities did, but this community protected my family and me. Many times I didn't know where my protection was, but they were there. So I think that helped. I got many calls, and my wife had learned how to handle calls - obscene calls, vulgar calls, threatening calls over the phone. So, I just never feared. I was aware but I wasn't afraid. I had to go to pick up people who worked in white neighborhoods during that era - who were afraid to go home; and I have driven during the middle of the night to pick them up by myself. People just had that confidence that if we could just get in contact with Dr. Mason he's going to respond some way. And that reputation, I think, prevailed during those thirty-four years and eight months that I was president. If you call him, he's going to come.

MS: You were the founding president of the Biloxi Branch of the NAACP and served in that capacity for more than thirty-four years. How do you feel about the organization after being president for such a long time?

Dr. Mason: The Biloxi Branch is doing just fine. We have an excellent president in Mr. James Crowell. I think that he has shown great promise, insight, energy; and he is dedicated to carrying out the program. I predict a great future for him, and a long future. I am very pleased. He paid his dues: he served as treasurer; he worked on several committees. He is familiar with the activities of the NAACP. MS

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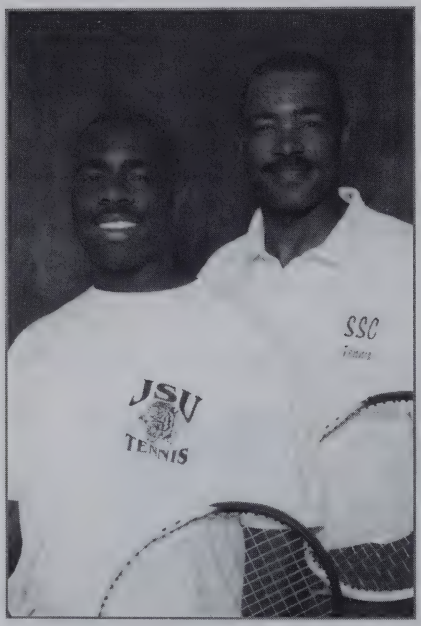


Myron Labat, Jr. and Myron Labat, Sr.

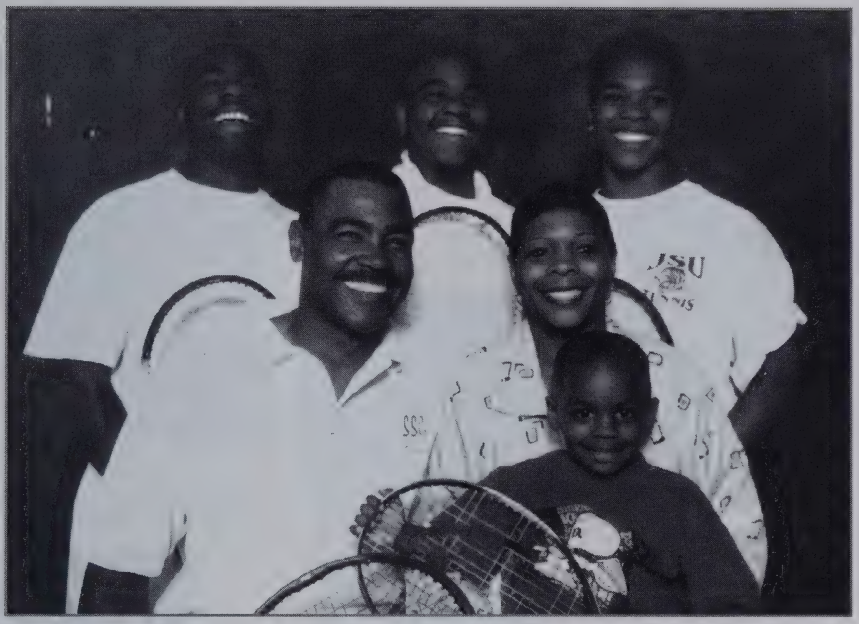
In our time it is generally understood that a father's role is that of provider and role model, one who shares knowledge and life experience among other things with his children. We have also heard the reference to the role of parents as that of "passing the torch."

Myron Labat, Sr. appears to have found success in his role as father of two sons and a daughter by passing the racket - the tennis racket. As varsity tennis coach at St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis, Myron Sr. coached his son Myron Jr., 22 - nicknamed "Bo" - who graduated from Jackson State University this spring and his daughter Marion, 19, - who will be a sophomore at JSU this fall - while she attended Our Lady Academy High School. Youngest son Bryce, 15, will begin his second season on the St. Stanislaus tennis team next year.

"It gives me a sense of fulfillment," explains Myron Sr. as he reflects on Bo's accomplishments on the tennis court. The JSU men's tennis team captured its second consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference (S.W.A.C.) championship in New Orleans this spring. Bo played number one doubles and number three singles while serving as team captain.

"First and foremost tennis has given him a good measure of self esteem," Myron Sr. assesses the value of tennis to Bo's life. "It's also given him a means through which he can express himself and showcase his talents; and because of his calmness and poise he is respected by his peers and looked up to by younger players."

Bo graduated cum laude from Jackson State University in May with a degree in psychology and plans to begin graduate studies at Ole Miss this fall. This is what makes Myron Sr. and his wife Rhonda proudest. "It was always



Myron and Rhonda Labat with children, Myron, Jr., Bryce, and Marion and grandson, Dedrick.

sort of the plan to give them a means to finance their education doing something they would enjoy and would have access to for the rest of their lives," Myron Sr. explained. "It also makes me pretty proud to know that we have two scholarship athletes in the family."

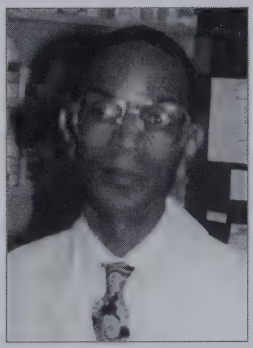
While winning back-to-back S.W.A.C. championships is high on Myron Sr.'s list of highlights of Bo's tennis career, another championship when Bo was a junior in high school is highest. "As far as I am concerned the highlight of Bo's career was winning the state doubles championship in 1992 with a substitute partner," Myron Sr. recalled. "His regular partner who was from Mexico had to return home because of an illness in his family. We had to play the state tournament with a young man who at the time was the number 5 player on the varsity team. In the state tourney both players stepped up their performances to enable us to come away with the championship."

And there is another highlight Myron Sr. recalls. This one appears to have been a victory for the relationship between father and son. "Bo was playing in a tournament in Laurel," Myron Sr. recalled. "He had played three long matches that day, and that night in the hotel room, he complained of pain in his hamstring; so I ran out to the drugstore and bought some balm and massaged his hamstring. He seemed a little surprised by that. We had never been in the habit of openly expressing affection even though we both knew it was there. But I believe he took this particular incident as a sign that I was generally concerned about him, not only as a player but as a son.

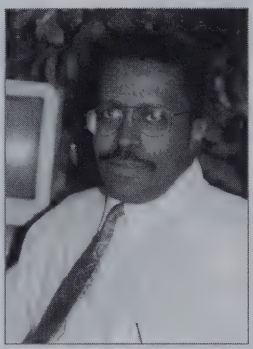
"Tennis has brought us much closer together as a family than we might have

Continued on p. 27...

Influential African-Amer



Clarence DuBose
Pharmacist, Businessman
Video Producer
Moss Point



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Vice President, Partners for
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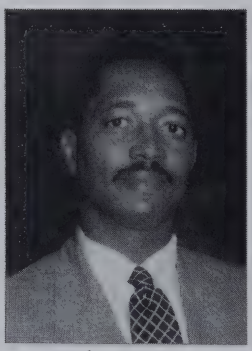
Chief, WLOX-TV 13

James Black
General Mgr.,
WAML 1340 AM, L
WQFX 1130 AM, Gu



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Vice President, Human
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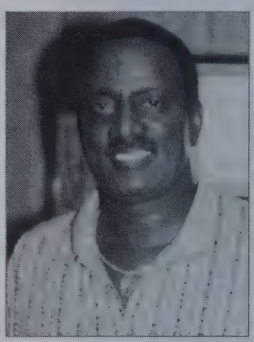
Management
Casino America, Inc.

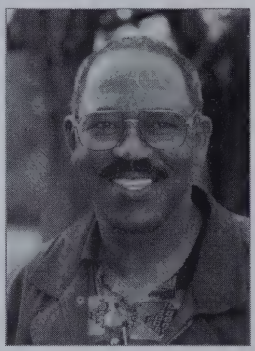
Harry C. Tartt
Community Leader &
Retired Minister
Public Relations Officer
Gulf Coast Community
Action Agency



William Prince Jones
Athletic Director
Gulfport City Schools

Men in South Mississippi

Nathaniel Fairconnetue
Vice Principal, Harrison Central High School



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B&W Service, Inc.
Owner, S&D, Inc.

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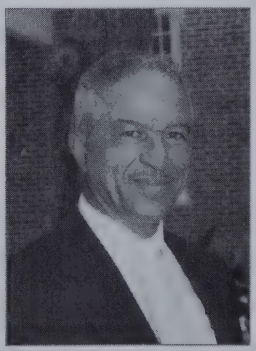
President Elect, Magnolia Bar Association
Board Member, Forrest Heights Boys and Girls Club

John H. Whitfield
Circuit Court Judge
Hancock, Harrison & Stone Counties



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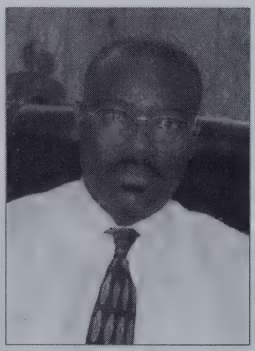
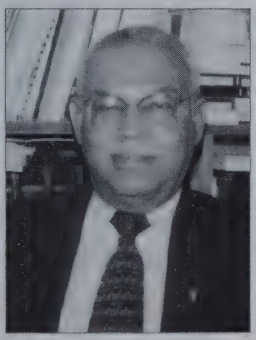
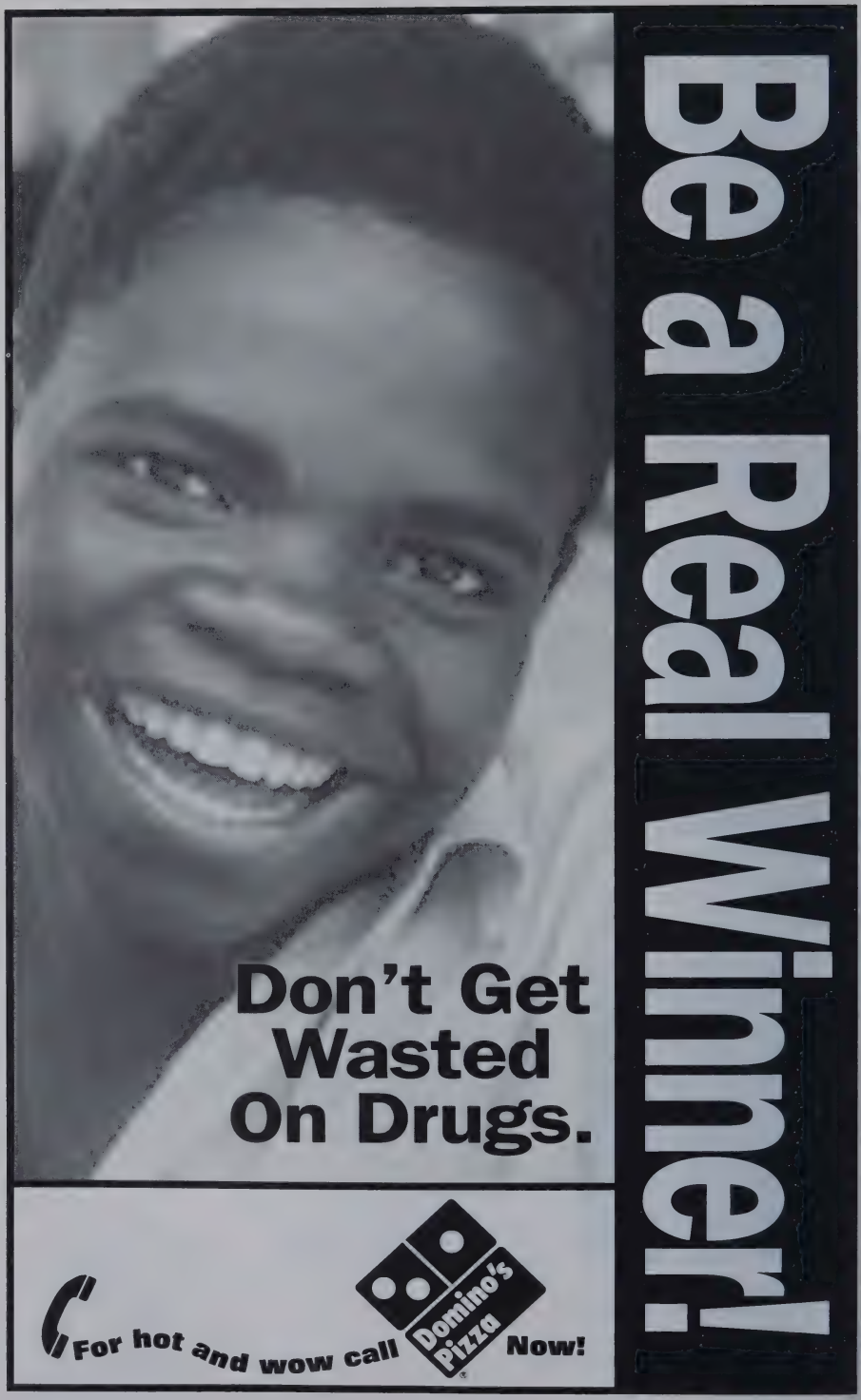
Harrison County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Retired Asst. Superintendent
Pass Christian City Schools



Philip Terrell, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Pass Christian Public Schools



Gilbert Mason, Sr. M.D.
Physician and Civil Rights Leader, Biloxi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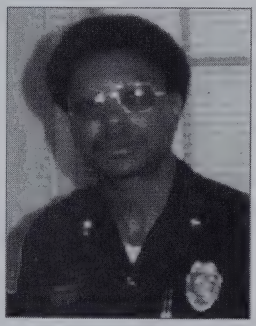

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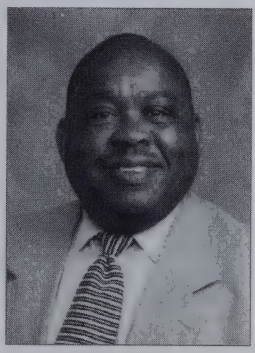
Director of Police
Biloxi Police Dept.



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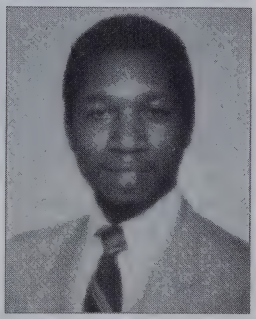
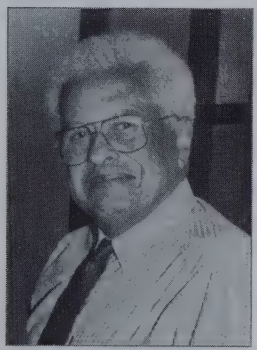
Executive Director
Gulf Coast Community
Action Agency
Gulfport



Charles Lawrence
Municipal Court Judge
Hattiesburg



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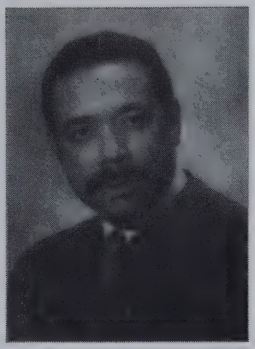
Kenneth Fairley
Community Leader and
Minister
Hattiesburg

Percy Watson
State Representative
Hattiesburg

Influential African-American Men in South Mississippi



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Mississippi

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Assistant District Attorney
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Eddie Holloway
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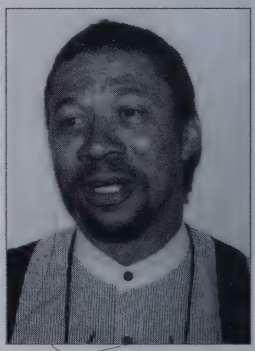
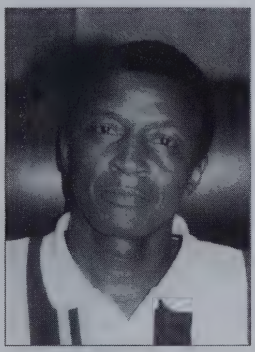
Assistant Dean of Students
University of Southern
Mississippi



Rip Daniels
Manager
WJZD, Inc.
Gulfport

Influential African-American Men in South Mississippi



Bobby Jones
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High School

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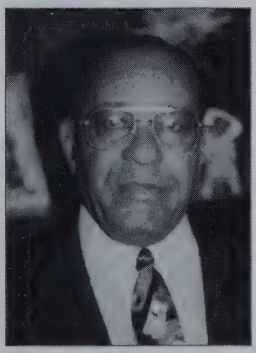

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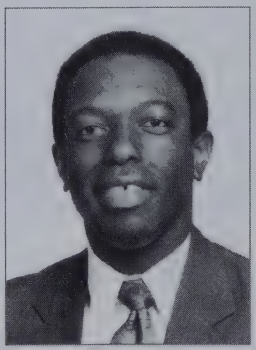

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Chair, Department of
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University of Southern
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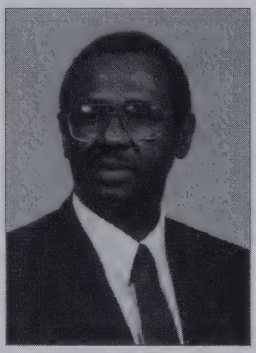
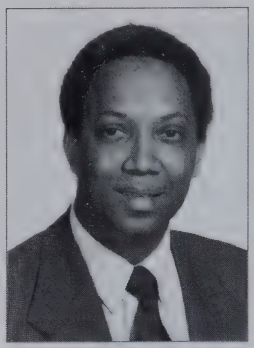


Jimmie W. Roy
President, Board of Trustees
Biloxi Public Schools

Influential African-American Men in South Mississippi



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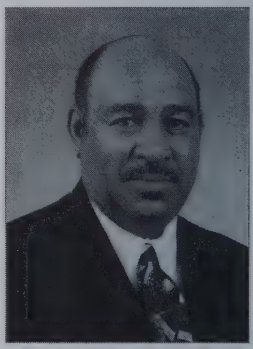

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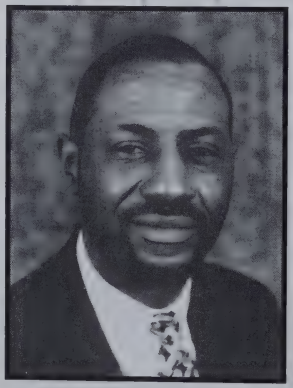

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Continued from p. 17...

been without it," Myron Sr. explained. "For several years we have been able to play a competitive game with family members. Family vacations have been made that much better because of our enjoyment of the game. Our past two vacations have been tennis vacations."

How do you choose teams within the family?

Myron explained that it didn't really matter how you chose teams in order to have a competitive game of mixed doubles in the family. Whether it's he and Rhonda, who plays at the 3.0 National Tennis Rating Program level against Bo and Marion or he and Marion against Rhonda and Bo, "the matches are usually competitive as well as fun."

He only chuckles at the question, "Does your team always win in family games?" "It's pretty even he says, but he admits that when he and Rhonda play together they have somewhat of an edge because of their experience, and "Experience plays heavily in doubles."

What's ahead in tennis for the family?

The trips back and forth to Jackson will continue for at least the next three years as Marion enters her second season of collegiate tennis. And it appears that her love for the game has grown over the past year, so the family is really looking forward to traveling to tournaments to watch her play next year..

"Marion was not as serious a junior player as Bo by her own choice," Myron Sr. said, "but since receiving the scholarship to Jackson State University she has become serious about her tennis; and she also realizes that tennis for her is not only a means for financing her education but also gives her access to team membership and comraderie which she enjoys.

Bryce is a member of the varsity tennis team at SSC and will be a sophomore next year. "He is interested in tennis," Myron explained, but it's not his major focus. "He works hard at his studies; he's good with computers and enjoys working in service organizations such as the Junior Knights (Peter Claver).

As for Bo, Myron Sr. acknowledges that the preparation for college tennis was over once he finished high school. "Once he was able to capitalize on his success as a junior tennis player by obtaining a scholarship he could then concentrate on his studies while improving his tennis at Jackson State University."

Next generation looks promising.

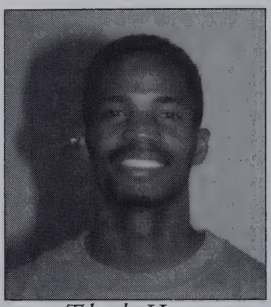
At age 3, grandson Dedrick has made a few trips to the court, "but already shows some signs of ability and good hand-eye coordination," according Myron Sr. "He enjoys hitting balls with either his dad or grandad, but he also enjoys his motorcycles and Power Rangers. The plan so far is to expose him to tennis and as he gets older he will make his own choices as to what he would like to excel at."

You get the feeling that young Dedrick's early exposure to the game of tennis combined with the family's love of the game and their understanding of the importance of allowing the toddler to discover and develop what the game will be for him just may be the right amount of exposure to take tennis in the family to the next level.

Apparently, it would be just fine if the family's tradition on the tennis court continues to the next generation. However, what appears to be most important is that Dedrick and whoever else follows develop their God-given talents to the fullest and make the most of their lives. MS

Hair Magic

"It's more to business than what I expected," Teleado Harper, 24, explains as he works preparing the new location for his three-year-old company, Hair Magic. "There was a time when I thought doing hair was all it takes.



Teleado Harper

"Customer service, community involvement, building clientele, building staff and money management are all very important. Salon management is the toughest because all stylist in this field deal with technical skills, not business skills.

"I learned business skills when I moved to New York for three months and opened a salon. Basically what I learned is that a certain salon should hold a certain look from entrance to exit, a certain persona and atmosphere. Sometimes when you go into a salon it looks like a chair, a bowl and a comb."

Teleado looks around the spacious open area of his new location and focuses on his goals. "Right now I just want to build staff, a well-educated staff with at least one advance training course. That can be from Dudley in North Carolina, Pivot Point in Chicago or any of the good programs," he explains.

"I'm getting educated on how to build staff and clientele," states a clearly ambitious Teleado. "If I could make salon owners or future salon owners and stylists and future stylists see where this $84 billion industry is headed, and if we could join together, we'll get there. Teleado says that the ideal scenario is fewer salons with qualified staffs, good management, proper community involvement and effective public relations. "We'll make a difference in our communities and we won't become endangered.

"What other industry in our community comes in contact with as many people as we do?" Teleado asks. "We see more youngsters than the English teachers. Half of our clients are not going to school." He makes reference to a young man who is a senior at the local high school who didn't graduate with his class this spring. Teleado talked the student into not giving up and committed to paying the student's summer school costs.

He also acknowledges that he is motivated by the development of the people who work in his shop. One of the young men started out sweeping his shop. "I could send him to beauty school right now," he says. "This young man is hungry to learn and he is aggressive. I don't think they hold his attention in school as well as we do in the shop.

"You know what I think the difference between poverty and success?" he asks. He then extends his hand to raise me from my seat. "That's the difference," he explains. "I can't change the world, but I can do my share."

VIDEO REVIEW

"Get On The Bus"

A couple of weeks ago, I picked up a copy of the recently released on video *Get On The Bus,* the movie film-maker Spike Lee developed around a cross-country journey of about twenty African-American men traveling from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. for the Million Man March. This is a very well done exploration into relationships and interactions of men, for the most part, within the confines of a bus.

Ossie Davis plays the role of the bonding force through his character which is the voice of wisdom and hope. A father and his son who is a ward of the court system make the trip chained together. An actor who is impressed with himself, attempts to impress the others on board by dropping the names of "Denzel" and others. And two gay men on the verge of ending their relationship make the journey across country as one driver gets ill and another quits because he is uncomfortable as the only white with a bus nearly filled with African-American men.

Spike does a great job of developing characters and relationships. Although the set is limited to primarily the inside of a bus, the movie is inviting and involves the audience with interesting characters and interactions.

Comments from two men who attended the Million Man March.

"I thought it was an excellent movie. It captured the true spirit of the march. It was not so much that transpired on the podium but that men had drive to go and then went to D.C., choosing to be in D.C. on a Monday, a workday at their own expense, being with others who were just as committed as you."

Rip Daniels

"This film represented the overall feeling of The March. The way the movie ended represented the true spirit of the Million Man March."

Warren L. Conway

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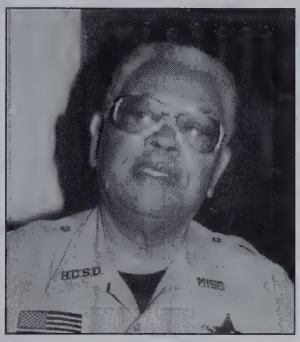

WINSTON VAZ

While working with young Black men in the capacity of teacher, coach and other related positions, I have observed a number of significant issues that serve as obstacles in the way of the development of many African-American youth. Some of the obstacles are as follows:

1. *Lack of strong religious ties.*
2. *Home environment - lack of family togetherness.*
3. *Lack of education and desire to achieve.*
4. *Peer pressure/gangs: When young people join gangs, they are looking for a family figure and love.*
5. *Lack of a strong father figure.*
6. *Parents not listening to what their children are saying.*
7. *Easy money from dealing drugs.*
8. *Lack of jobs or refusing work because they don't feel the jobs pay what they might expect to earn.*
9. *Love! Hardly ever hearing the expression from a parent, I love you.*

Certainly there is a lot that we as adults and parents can do to help solve these problems for our youth.

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Calendar

June 14
Soap Box Derby
Downtown Moss Point
Moss Point, MS
Contact:
Deborah Washington

June 14
Omega Weekend
2nd Annual Party Cruise With the Ques
Departs Gulfport Small Craft Harbor
7:00 p.m.
After Party at The Oaks Club

June 15
Father's Day Horseshoe Throwing Tournament
Martin Luther King Park
Bay St. Louis
3:00 p.m.

June 15
Omega Weekend
Father's Day Picnic
U.S. Naval Construction Center
Gulfport

June 19
Visions For Leadership
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Jefferson Davis Campus
Speakers: Sally Helgesen & Leslie Burl McLemore
11:00 a.m.

June 26
Biloxi Branch NAACP
Monthly Meeting
New Main Street Office
Biloxi, MS
7:00 p.m.
Contact:
Shirley Gibson 435-1651

June 28
Word of Power Ministries
Sixth Annual Appreciation Banquet
Holiday Inn Airport
Gulfport, MS
Contact: (601)831-3993 or 341-0202

June 28 & 29
St. Rose Doubles Tournament
Diamondhead's Tennis World
Diamondhead, MS
Contact:
Myron Labat 467-3732

Coming in July: *Churches and Pastors Listing*
See page 32...for details

Isle of Capri® Casino Crowne Plaza® Resort Biloxi, MS

- Caribbean-style resort hotel with 370 oversized rooms – all with magnificent views of the Mississippi Gulf Coast
- Non-stop casino excitement
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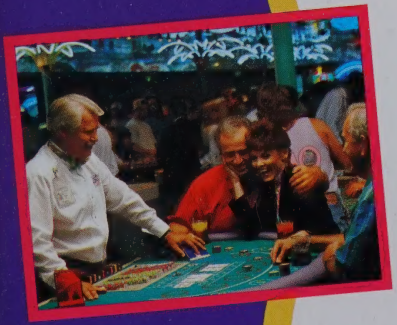

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